5/17/69

Dear Gary,

It is getting toward the end of a long and tiring day (tooxmmany are now this kind) and I want to answer your 5/15 so my mind can be free for what I must do as fast as possible for John Nichols.

Ron Hobbs was here today. I went to the airport and got him, then took him back. He was going to rent a car but I thought he was imposing on hiself that way. his, however, meant four sixty-mile trips in addition to all the other things. I like him. I'll let you know what, if anything, develops.

Thanks for the slides. Because there is no chance I'll be needing them right away I've offered to lend them to Bernabei, who is now examining them to see if he'll want to use in some of his speeches. He has been examining the pictures (Shell) and finds interesting things. He is quite sharp on these things. He is not yet certain of their meaning.

The Lifton stuff is Lifton, who cannot conceive anything is right but what he wants, that what he doesn't believe isnot. Here I cannot fault Mark, who must also know that dealing with Dave is futility. He was polite and just brushed him off. Dave knows nothing but he likes KT. However, he deceives in his Heindell representations. It is he who deceived JG, he who elicited and sent the false affidavits against Heindell. He forgets he acknowledged this in "Open City". He has no idea what I think of KT and makes up what he says. As you already know, I have neither knowledge of or interest in Garrison's charge but have entirely different interests, and you know what some, at least, are. However, the date Lifton gives is important. I also was in LA then. I had just been in N.O. I had gone to see KT's friend Bolton, warned him that if Garrison knew what I did his interest in KT was inevitable, and I offered to talk to KT because I was of the opinion he might possess fact the significance of which was lost on him. I went further and assured the literary property would be his. I have a notion Dave has had much less to say since I was in Calif and spoke to him, on Paul's urging.

I am neither angry nor surprised at the Fred vilification. He is nuts. I told you they all are and you will eventually see whether this is an exaggeration. So far as my making advances are concerned, no one ever believes a man's denial, but for the record, I make it. What else can I say? I think I know what is behind it and if it is important to you, we can discuss it when we are together. However, there is a kind of answer available to you. You read my file of correspondence with him, as I have offered before. You will find no reference to any such thing, even when at the end he got nasty, and you will find the kind of letters entirely inconsistent with this for a period of about a year after I was there. I think this is adequate answer. I'd like you to read that file, for there are other things you'll learn. Let me take the other things up in the order of your letter.

My alleged taking Lillian's research and claiming it as my own, etc. This probably does not relate to Willis 5/Z202 but to the 206-12 but. Here is the story on that: I spotted it in Liebeler's questioning of X, marked it and entirely forgot it when I wrote WW. When Sylvia read it she called this oversight to my attention. Then I realized what I had done, checked the volume and there is the red mark I made when I first read it. However, I wrote Sylvia and thanked her and told her I'd add it and give her credit. She replied saying Lillian had told her of it. I wrote Lillian and told her I'd give her credit and she replied saying she never wanted credit for anything, that she was afraid, etc. I have all these letters. And you can also see my Volume 7. On the Willis 5, there is one think Lillian told me I had not noted. I think that was Clint Hill's shoulder, etc. I reached my conclusions

by entirely different means, as my writing, which is explicit, shows, and used other proofs, not those she did. However, when I found that either her attitude had changed or that in any event, if she had anything to fear it was too late when someone did bring her into it, I went out of my way, I think in PM, to give her elaborate credit, really out of context, but to record it. You can see for yourself her repeated complaints to me that no one would use her work, for which she wanted no mention, including Earl Warren, Mark Lane and many others. And some of it is pretty wild stuff. More, when Garrison used my stuff on the sewers and when he was writing a press release, I asked him to note that the concept of the use of the sewers in the assassination originated with her and you'll find it in that press release, despite the fact that she had nothing to do with what he said and used and had no knowledge of any of it. It was stuff I got at the Archives and what Al Chapman did for me (and JG misused entirely). I never saw any of Lillians stuff anywhere, Sylvia never showed me any of anybody's work. This is all fabrication, whether or not Lillian said it to begin with. As a matter of fact, it is I who gave Lillian all the utilities blueprints for Dealey Plaza, before and after it was built, had a hell of a time getting them back, and never did get acknowledgement that she had even received them. On this same aspect, I also have Ray Marcus' work on Z and did not use it. I can show you the letters I wrote him begging him to use my stuff in his awkard, dull, incomplete monograph and I did not use his important Conally stuff because I felt he should, it was that important. Again, this is all in writing. More, as you have seen, during the Thompson hassle you know the letters I wrote on Ray's behalf and his wierd reaction. I know Hal read them.

There is no question what happened at Receda, or of Lifton's role in it (I presume he was Fred's source). That, too, is largely in writing and Lifton has yet to deny what I wrote him about this (which you can also see). He made it up and it is the opposite of fact. Now as to Liebeler refusing to face me, it is fact and recorded. The day after we taped the Les Crane show he refused to confront me live on KHJ-TV, the Stan Bohrman Show, when Bohrman phoned him. And on my insistence this was then aired. Fred must know it. I readily acknowledge my debate with him was not one of my better nights, and for my losing my cool there is really no excuse. But I know of no one who thinks Liebeler "wiped the floor" with me, and I know Liebeler has been 100% silent since that night. And I do mean 100%. He admitted the Aktgens picture was doctored in every form in which it was used, akong other things, and there was the most abundant airing of that picture as I got and used it and as he did, etc. I asked for an immediate taping of a second show when they corrupted the format after we were on the air (late because Liebeler almost didn't show). It is not I who didn't go through with this. So far as Lane's ability to "handle" Liebeler is concerned, my first trip to Calif in December 1966 was to get Liebeler off Lane's back, at Maggie and Bill O'Connell's repeated request. He had Lane on the ropes and they were all hurting. I got none of my expenses back, no help, not a singel cent, on transportation. Hal's people were to have paid it and to this day have come up with only a small part, and that of only my fare to SF, nothing else. I have the Lane- Liebeler tape. Epstein was on it. He did much better than Mark, and it is this that prompted Bill and Maggie to ask me to go there. I abandoned WWII to do this and what a cost that was! And was it exhausting! Hal could not keep up with what I did in SF alone.

Interesting that Bradley is a "CIA executioner" and Jaffe an "agent".

I never phoned Maggie and asked her for $200 to continue my investigations. When Vince made his famous deal for me and it was not lived up to, and I had to leave because I had no money, I phoned her and Vince and told them both. My purpose, and it is explicit to Maggie at least and in writing, was so there would never be any recrimination that I had run out on the other critics when they were depending on me, etc. What she said was very embarrasing, about all the money she had spent, etc., and had no intentions of spending another cent. She said she'd speak to her hsuband

to see if he felt they could afford it (!) I told her and Vince when I was leaving and I did leave then. Bud was there and he was in the same position they are. As you know, I preferred not to be there for the trial for there was better way to spend the time. And this had nothing to do with my investigations but was for the trial.

Do I have to tell you how ridiculous his filth about sitting waiting for the mail in Jim's office is? Or what this says of Fred?

I repeat, it is not anger I feel but a kind of sickness. In one way or another you have personal knowledge of much of this.

What Fred says of JG now is not at all what he was writing me, as you should also see for yourself. At the very best he is a sick man, and that is the very best. But when you see what he is now doing, what do you think of the original advice I gave you, to stay away from him? And I renew my cautions about the undependability of his work. But on the credit hogging about which he says so much, when you get a chance reread his stuff as I saw it in the three issues of "Probe" and see for yourself who used who's stuff without credit!

It is also futile to try anything with Marlynn. Do you expect her to disavow him or to prove him a lair, evil or nuts. The best thing you can do it drop it where it is. He will misued anything you write him.

Do you honestly think he'll pay attention to constructive criticism? This is an enormous waste of time from which only evil can flow. And it wastes so much time for so many.

I did not know Bud was leaving. I've heard nothing from him and I've made no effort to get in touch with him.

May I also suggest that with what you have now seen of Fred, can any of his work be used at all? Can a man be so irrational and dishonest on some affairs and dependable in others?

I disagree with you on the end of your third paragraph. I think we should leave the nuts strictly alone once we are satisfied they are nuts. They cannot be saved, they can be depended upon to do some harm, and the time can be put to better use in any event. You cannot cure sickness by waving holy water and you cannot straighten out a sick mind that doesn't want to be any other way. All these people have heavy guilt hanging on them and they cannot abide it. With JG, with Lamarre, etc. By the way, there has been no response on L from Maggie, nothing on deV. I sent you what I wrote. Each of those sycophants had a major share in the N.O. ruin and each knows it. I think perhaps this in part explains this sudden campaign against me. I warned them on both, well in advance.

There is no point in your confronting Fred on this for it will be meaningless and accomplish nothing. Drop it, but satisfy yourself when you are here, or, if you feel you cannot, ask for copies of whatever you want and I'll stop and make them for you. All I care about is that in your own mind you end satisfied.

I am too tired for any more, want to spend some time with Dick and it is bedtime (he leaves in the a.m.), and I do not think I'll louse up the prospects of getting any work done tomorrow by reading and correcting. If there is anything unclear, let me know.

I do hope you can find some way of relieving your financial problems. But above all, do not let them get you down. Best,